

Production No. 8F04

The Simpsons

"HOMER DEFINED"

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TABLE DRAFT

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NOTE: FOR TABLE READ ONLY

"HOMER DEFINED"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
MARGE.....YEARDLEY SMITH  
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT  
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH  
BURNS.....HARRY SHEARER  
SMITHERS.....HARRY SHEARER  
GRAMPA.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
JOE MONTANA.....HANK AZARIA  
ARISTOTLE AMADOPOLIS....HANK AZARIA  
MILHOUSE.....PAMELA HAYDEN  
MARTIN.....PAMELA HAYDEN  
CASPER.....HARRY SHEARER  
OTTO.....HARRY SHEARER  
SHERRY.....PAMELA HAYDEN  
BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
LENNY.....HARRY SHEARER  
TERRY.....PAMELA HAYDEN  
CARL.....HANK AZARIA  
MOE.....HANK AZARIA  
APU.....HANK AZARIA  
KENT BROCKMAN.....HARRY SHEARER  
MR. BILLINGSWORTH.....HANK AZARIA

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CALM WOMAN (V.O.).....MAGGIE ROSWELL  
MARGARITA.....PAMELA HAYDEN  
FRED SANFORD (V.O.).....HARRY SHEARER  
FEMALE VOICE (V.O.).....PAMELA HAYDEN  
APPLAUDING WORKER.....HANK AZARIA  
GRIMACING WORKER.....HARRY SHEARER  
MRS. VAN HOUTEN.....MAGGIE ROSWELL  
TED KEEGAN.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
ESKIMO.....HANK AZARIA  
MAN IN AUDIENCE.....HARRY SHEARER  
DOCTOR.....HARRY SHEARER

HOMER DEFINED

BY

Howard Gewirtz

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN

The Simpsons are at the kitchen table eating breakfast. BART isn't eating -- he's trying to wrap a gift box. MARGE, LISA and HOMER are reading USA Today.

HOMER

(ANNOYED) Okay, who's got the green section?

LISA

Not I. I've got purple.

On the cover of Lisa's purple section is the headline "America's Favorite Pencil. #2 is #1!" Underneath is a picture of a large #2 pencil with large muscular arms and smaller cowering pencils marked #1, #3, #4, #5.

MARGE

Homie, you usually want red.

Homer looks at his ink-stained hands.

HOMER

I've already read blue, purple, red and yellow. Yellow? Oh, wait, those are eggs. (LICKS PALM, THEN) Ah, here we are, green.

Homer finds his green section and starts to read.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Hmmm... it says here three-fifths of us are eating cereal. One... two... hey, three-fifths of us are eating cereal. Plus, it says here, the average U.S. family is enjoying breakfast more than ever. Hey, we're enjoying breakfast more than ever.

MARGE

Bart, you haven't touched your cereal. Don't you like it?

HOMER

Yeah, boy. Don't be one of those breakfast-hating nutsos.

BART

Business before pleasure. I gotta finish wrapping Milhouse's birthday present.

As he finishes wrapping the box, he starts to sign the card.

BART (CONT'D)

"To me bestest bud"... no no. "To me bosom pal" -- uh-uh. "To my best friend forever, your spitbrother, Bart."

Bart **SPITS** on the card and rubs it in. Lisa pushes her bowl away, disgusted.

LISA

I'm done.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - A LITTLE LATER

Bart is bugging MILHOUSE to open his present.

BART

C'mon, open it open it open it open it.

MILHOUSE

(UNCOMFORTABLE) Uh, maybe a little later, Bart.

Twins SHERRY and TERRY come up to Milhouse.

SHERRY

We had a lovely time on Saturday, Milhouse.

TERRY

Oh my, yes. My piece of cake had a big pink flower!

BART

Milhouse, I thought your mom didn't let you have a birthday party this year.

MILHOUSE

Well...we just had a few kids come over and...(CHANGING SUBJECT) I wonder what kind of tree that is.

BART

Who cares? Open your present.

Milhouse does. Inside are Official Krusty The Clown Walkie-Talkies. They are shaped like Krusty's head. Bart takes one out.

BART (CONT'D)

They're walkie-talkies! I'll keep one and you keep one. This way we can always be together.

Milhouse doesn't know what to say. MARTIN comes up to them.

MARTIN

Milhouse, I'd like to express my appreciation for Saturday. Jelly bean baskets, personalized hats -- the little touches are what made it enduring.

MILHOUSE

Yeah, thanks, Martin.

BART

(SUSPICIOUS) Milhouse, you didn't have a party at your house this weekend...

MILHOUSE

Well, it was just that...(CHANGING SUBJECT) Hey, look at that dog, isn't that something.

A thoroughly ordinary DOG is walking along past the bus.

BART

(INTO WALKIE-TALKIE) Bart to Milhouse. Did you have a party?

MILHOUSE

(INTO WALKIE-TALKIE) Sorry Bart,  
you're breaking up.

OTTO

(INTO MICROPHONE) Springfield  
Elementary, last stop. Oh, and by  
the way, all you little party animal  
dudes and dude-ettes, I'd like to  
personally say thanks, and 'applause,  
applause' to 'birthday boy' Milhouse  
for his really bitchin' party on  
Saturday.

The whole bus erupts into CHEERS. The kids file past Otto  
as they exit. As Martin is about to get off:

OTTO (CONT'D)

(INTO MICROPHONE) Hey Martin, next  
time pin the tail on the donkey, man!

MARTIN

I'll accept your jibe in the spirit  
of bonhomie in which it was intended.

OTTO

Heh heh heh!

Milhouse gets up. Bart just sits there, stunned, and looks  
up at Milhouse.

BART

I thought we were best friends, and  
you didn't even invite me to your  
party.

WIDE SHOT

The last youngster exits the bus -- that is, except for a crestfallen Bart. Otto drives off with Bart still on board.

INT. SPRINGFIELD POWER PLANT - BURNS' OFFICE - SAME TIME

BURNS and SMITHERS are keeping an eye on what's happening throughout the plant via a bank of surveillance monitors.

BURNS

Ah, Monday morning. (EYES MONITOR)  
Time to pay for your two days of  
debauchery, you hung-over drones.

SMITHERS

T.G.I.M., Sir. (CHUCKLES)

BURNS

So, what did you do this weekend,  
Smithers?

SMITHERS

Let's see...I tidied up the  
apartment.

BURNS

(AFTER A BEAT) That's it?

SMITHERS

Well, I caught up on my laundry.  
Wrote a letter to mother. Oh, here's  
the kicker, I took Hercules out to be  
clipped.

BURNS

Who the devil is Hercules?

SMITHERS

My Yorkshire terrier, sir. He's kind of tiny, so... it's a joke. Here's a picture of Herkie.

Smithers takes a photograph out of his wallet showing a picture of himself holding pampered little Hercules. A scowling picture of Burns hangs in the background.

BURNS

(SARCASTIC) Well, Smithers don't you know how to paint the town red.

(ENTREATING) Wake up! You're young, you have all your teeth... use them. Eat something. Chew a stick of gum. Live!

SMITHERS

I'll pick up a pack on my way home. May I ask how you spent your weekend?

BURNS

A bit overly familiar, but I'll allow it. I took in a movie. Appalling piece of filth. They took off their clothes at the drop of a hat.

Smithers **GASPS** and puts his hand to his mouth.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Just give the great unwashed a pair of breasts and a happy ending, and they'll 'oink' for more every time.

**INT. SPRINGFIELD POWER PLANT - COFFEE AREA - CONTINUOUS**

Homer is at the coffee and donut table. LENNY and CARL are nearby.

LENNY

Have a nice weekend, Homer?

HOMER

Tree-mendous. Dumped the kids, took the little woman out to the moving pictures. What a show! Hi-larious. And that blonde cutie -- does she have 'assets'? (OINKING GRUNTS OF APPROVAL)

LENNY

Sounds like my kind of flick.

CARL

And how!

Lenny and Carl start OINKING along with Homer.

DISSOLVE TO:

**INT. HOMER'S WORK STATION - A BIT LATER**

Homer, loaded with donuts, goes to the display panel.

**CLOSE UP - DISPLAY PANEL**

As the needle on a gauge labeled "Core Temperature" rises dangerously into the red. A globule of jelly PLOPS out of a donut and covers up the gauge.

**BACK TO SCENE**

As Homer sits down contentedly, feet up, scarfing a donut.

HOMER

Work, work, work.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME TIME

Otto's driving along, HUMMING the heavy bass line to Deep Purple's "SMOKE ON THE WATER" into the bus P.A. He's happily unaware that Bart is still on the bus.

EXT. QUIK-E-MART PARKING LOT - A BIT LATER

The bus pulls into the parking lot. Otto climbs down and walks towards the Quik-E-Mart. Bart still hasn't moved.

INT. QUIK-E-MART - CONTINUOUS

APU

Oh! Otto! Welcome!

OTTO

Apu! (SLAPS HIM FIVE) Got a ba-ad case of the munchies, man. Time for a Heat-lamp Dog.

Otto goes to the hot dog bar and starts to build the perfect hot dog.

OTTO (CONT'D)

Mmmmmmm! Lots of ketchup. A little mustard. On a bun! I get to make it my way. Ketchup and mustard.

APU

My heart swells to see you choosing your own condiments. Such are the freedoms which brought me to this country.

Otto heads back to Apu with his dog and other purchases.

OTTO

Heat-lamp dog, Squishee, beer nuts... what'd I leave out?

APU

Why not test providence with a  
lottery ticket?

OTTO

Solid.

Apu hands him a lottery ticket. Otto scratches it.

OTTO (CONT'D)

Wow! Won five bucks! Hey, I'll take  
five more lottery tickets.

Apu hands him five more tickets. Otto scratches them, and  
loses on them all.

OTTO (CONT'D)

Aw, bummer. Well, I won five bucks.  
They can't take that away from me.

APU

(LOOKING OUTSIDE) Otto. Did you  
know there's a small child in your  
bus?

OTTO

Whoa, not again.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - LATER

They're driving along.

OTTO

So Bart-dude, whatsa problem? You  
look like you just lost your best  
friend.

BART

I did.

OTTO

Right on the first guess!

INT. HOMER'S WORK STATION - SAME TIME

CLOSE UP - "CORE TEMPERATURE" GAUGE

As the now very hot jelly starts to bubble up.

ON HOMER

Who's asleep, drooling and SNORING. A big chunk of donut is on his chin.

INT. BURNS OFFICE - SAME TIME

BURNS

Call me old-fashioned, but movies were sexier when the actors kept their clothes on. Helen Twelvetrees could say more with a raised eyebrow than a roomful of sweaty heaving buttocks.

SFX: BLARE OF AN ALARM SIREN

Next, we HEAR a calm woman's recorded voice.

CALM WOMAN (V.O.)

Warning. Problem in sector 7-G.

BURNS

7-G? Good God, who's the safety inspector there?

Smithers pushes a button on a bank of monitors. An old file photo of Homer comes up. He looks much younger and has nearly a full head of hair.

SMITHERS

Homer Simpson, sir.

Burns reacts the photo.

BURNS

Simpson, eh? Good man? Intelligent?

Smithers consults a file.

SMITHERS

Actually sir, he was hired under

"Project Bootstrap."

BURNS

(BITTERLY) Thank you, President Ford.

INT. HOMER'S WORK STATION - CONTINUOUS

Homer is startled awake by the BLARING SIREN.

HOMER

Huh? (LISTENS) Noise. (LISTENS

CLOSER) Bad noise!

CALM WOMAN (V.O.)

Warning. Five minutes before

critical mass.

HOMER

Critical wha...? (CALMING HIMSELF)

Okay, okay, don't panic. Whosoever  
problem this is, I'm sure they know  
how to handle it.

The jelly bubble on the "Core Temperature" gauge BURSTS.

HOMER (CONT'D)

AHHH!! It's my problem! We're  
doomed!!!

CALM WOMAN (V.O.)

Sector 7-G is now being isolated.

All around Homer, heavy doors CLANG shut, sealing him off.  
Homer GULPS.

EXT. STOP 'N GO GAS STATION

Otto is smoking a cigarette while pumping gas. He talks to  
a sad-looking Bart.

BART

I'll never get over this, Otto-man.

OTTO

Sure you will. Once my old lady ran  
off and married my brother. Well, it  
hurt, but here it is a month later  
and I'm sleeping on their couch.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Marge is minding Maggie, and watching a soap opera.

ON TV

MARGARITA is at the Xerox machine. Her boss, MR.  
BILLINGSWORTH, grabs her from behind.

MR. BILLINGSWORTH

Margarita, I want you.

MARGARITA

(SHOCKED) Mr. Billingsworth, I can't  
work under these conditions.

MR. BILLINGSWORTH

Have it your way baby. You're fired.

He pulls her to him. She resists, then kisses him. PAN over  
to a MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN looking through a window into the  
Xerox room. She has a large tear rolling down her cheek.

Suddenly, the program is interrupted by a SPECIAL BULLETIN.

A graphic shows a nuclear reactor melting -- the top of the  
reactor sticks out of the melted reactor puddle.

**SUPER: "MELTDOWN CRISIS: THE FIRST COUPLE OF MINUTES"**

A grim-looking KENT BROCKMAN appears on screen.

KENT BROCKMAN

This station has just learned that a  
serious crisis is in progress at the  
Springfield Nuclear Power Plant.

**BACK TO SCENE**

Maggie is peeking out over her playpen, bug-eyed.

MARGE

Heavens to Betsy!

**ON TV**

We see a handsome, air-brushed file photograph of Burns.  
However, we **HEAR CRACKLY RECEPTION** from the crisis site.

KENT BROCKMAN

On the line with us now is plant  
owner C. Montgomery Burns. Mr.  
Burns?

BURNS (V.O.)

Hello, Kent. Right now, skilled  
nuclear energy technicians are calmly  
correcting a minor, piffling  
malfunction.

**INT. RANDOM SHOTS OF SPRINGFIELD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

All hell has broken loose as PEOPLE are running around  
mindlessly. We see TWO MEN **SMASH** open a soft drink machine  
with a chair. Others are stealing everything that isn't  
nailed down. Another MAN is leading a kneeling GROUP in  
prayer.

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - CONTINUOUS**

Dozens of RATS are fleeing the plant.

BURNS (V.O. CONT'D)

But, I can assure you and the public  
that there is absolutely no danger  
whatsoever --

INT. BURNS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Burns and Smithers are getting into their radiation suits.

BURNS (CONT'D)

-- things really couldn't be more  
ship-shape. (SOTTO) Smithers, zip  
me.

SMITHERS

(COYLY) Why sir, have you lost  
weight?

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Otto is listening to the radio and we HEAR the Burns  
interview.

KENT BROCKMAN (V.O.)

Sir, people are calling this a  
meltdown.

OTTO

Meltdown?! Well Bart, I guess this  
puts your little spat with Milhouse  
into perspective.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marge holds Maggie. Both give the TV wide-eyed attention.

BURNS (V.O.)

Oh, meltdown is one of those annoying buzzwords. We prefer to call it an unrequested fission surplus.

CALM WOMAN (V.O.)

Warning. Three minutes to core meltdown.

MARGE

Oh, Homer. Please be all right.

INT. HOMER'S WORK STATION - CONTINUOUS

HOMER

Gotta think! Okay, somewhere there's a thingee that tells you how to work this stuff.

Homer finds the manual and takes it out.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Aha! Oh, my God! It's as fat as a phone book! (OPENS MANUAL; READS)

"Congratulations on your purchase of a Fissionator 1952A Slow Fission Reactor. It should provide you with years of trouble free service if -- "

(ANNOYED GRUNT) Get to the point, man! Ooh, what's this?

From out of the manual Homer pulls out a completely incomprehensible fold-out blue print diagram.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Let's see. Coolant pump. Deuterium tank. Graphite rods. (ANNOYED GRUNT) Who'd have thought that a nuclear reactor would be so complicated!

INT. BURNS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

CALM WOMAN (V.O.)

Ninety seconds to core meltdown.

SMITHERS

Sir, there may never be another time to say... well... I love you, sir.

BURNS

(SARCASTIC) Oh, hot dog. Thank you for making my last few moments socially awkward.

INT. MOES BAR - CONTINUOUS

MOE and BARNEY are watching what's happening on TV.

MOE

This looks like the end.

Barney takes a swig of beer.

BARNEY

I couldn't have led a richer life.

(BELCH)

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - CONTINUOUS

GRAMPA, JASPER and an OLD LADY are watching Kent Brockman on TV.

GRAMPA

I don't like this program.

JASPER

Change the channel.

The old lady changes the channel to SANFORD AND SON. We  
HEAR the THEME SONG.

INT. HOMER'S WORK STATION - CONTINUOUS

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT) I've gone over this  
a million times! I don't understand  
anything! When they look up stupid  
in the dictionary, there'll be a  
picture of me!

At this, a horrified look crosses his face.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE  
TO:

HOMER'S FANTASY

A fat dictionary is open to the word "stupid". We read:

Stupid *adj* [L stupidus] 1: Slow of mind. 2: Given to  
unintelligent acts.

The CAMERA PULLS OUT to reveal a picture of Homer done in  
the antiquated, engraved dictionary style.

3: Homer Simpson

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marge is now on her knees, praying. Maggie is kneeling next  
to her.

MARGE

Dear Lord, if you spare this town  
from becoming a smoking hole in the  
ground, I'll try to be a better  
Christian. The next time there's a  
canned food drive I promise to give  
the poor something they'd actually  
like instead of old lima beans and  
pumpkin mix.

INT. HOMER'S WORK STATION - CONTINUOUS

CALM WOMAN (V.O.)

One minute to core meltdown.

HOMER

(MOCKING VOICE) One minute before  
boomedy-bang! (ANGRY) I'm doing the  
best I can!

A look of firm resolve crosses his face.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Simpson, it's all up to you. It's  
showtime!

Homer looks down at the panel with its confusing buttons.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Pick one, pick one, pick one!

Okay -- eenie meenie minee moe, catch  
a tiger by the toe, if he hollers let  
him go... No, wait... One potato,  
two potato, three potato, four --  
five potato, six potato, seven potato  
more... Unh uh... Bubble gum, bubble  
gum, in a dish, how many pieces do  
you wish?

INT. BURNS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

CALM WOMAN (V.O.)

Thirty seconds to core meltdown.

BURNS

(SITS WEARILY) Oh, Smithers, I guess  
there's nothing left but to kiss my  
sorry ass good-bye!

SMITHERS

May I, sir?

INT. HOMER'S WORK STATION - CONTINUOUS

HOMER

Apples, peaches, pears, and plums,  
tell me when your birthday comes!  
My-mother-says-to-pick-the-very-best-  
one-and-you-are-not-it. Out-goes  
Y-O --

Homer covers his eyes.

CLOSE UP - HOMER'S FINGER

As he finally presses a button.

HOMER (CONT'D)

-- U.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

**FADE IN:**

**INT. HOMER'S WORK STATION - A FEW MOMENTS LATER**

**SFX: ALARM BLARING**

Homer is holding his ears with his eyes shut tight, waiting for the Big Bang. Then, the **ALARM** abruptly stops.

CALM WOMAN (V.O.)

All systems returning to normal.

Danger in 7-G neutralized. Have a  
nice day.

**ON HOMER**

Who looks stunned. Homer looks down at the panel. The clock reads 007 seconds.

We **HEAR CHEERS** from around the plant.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE  
TO:

**HOMER'S FANTASY**

The dictionary is open to a word. **Lucky** *adj*\ 1: Prone to good fortune. 2: Succeeding through chance.

The **CAMERA PULLS OUT** to see the engraved dictionary illustration of Homer.

3: Homer Simpson

**INT. SPRINGFIELD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - VARIOUS**

Where last we saw chaos, now we see joyous **CELEBRATION**. Two **MEN** right the toppled soft drink machine. The people who were praying get up sheepishly. Lenny is on the phone.

LENNY

(INTO PHONE) Honey, you know a minute ago, when I called and said I cheated on you...It was just a joke, heh heh... All right, see you tonight.

(SLYLY) Oh yeah...I might be a little late.

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - CONTINUOUS**

We SEE the rats run back into the plant. A MAN on the street is selling t-shirts that say: "I Survived the Springfield Nuclear Scare."

**INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Grampa, Jasper and the old lady are still watching "Sanford and Son."

FRED SANFORD (V.O.)

Aunt Esther, you so ugly they should hang a "condemned" sign on your nose.

Grampa and Jasper LAUGH.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - SAME TIME**

Marge continues to watch the TV coverage with Maggie.

**ON TV**

We SEE the same publicity photo of Burns.

BURNS (V.O.)

Yes, we've isolated the problem and wouldn't you know? False alarm. It seems a single wayward crow flew into our warning system.

KENT BROCKMAN

Very good. Well sir, your point about nuclear hysteria has been well taken. This reporter promises to be more trusting and less vigilant in the future.

INT. BURN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

BURNS

(INTO PHONE) Excellent. Well, "ta".  
(HANGS UP) Smithers, I can still sell 'em snake oil. Now bring me a wine spritzer -- and don't be stingy with the wine.

SMITHERS

I know just how you like it, sir.

Burns glances at Homer's file photo on the wall.

BURNS

So, it seems you've underestimated one Homer Simpson. I suppose one man's boob is another man's (ECHO-Y PORTENTOUS VOICE) Employee-of-the-Month.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - SOMETIME LATER

Milhouse comes up to moping Bart.

MILHOUSE

Hey Bart, I'll trade you a great big piece of chocolate cake for your animal cracker.

BART

Would that be birthday cake by any chance?

MILHOUSE

(CAUGHT) Yeah.

BART

Hurt me, Milhouse. Okay, just answer me this. Who else didn't you invite?

MILHOUSE

Uh, well...

BART

You didn't invite Nelson, did you? He beats you up.

MILHOUSE

I did.

BART

Okay, but not Wendell. He's the biggest geek in school.

MILHOUSE

Actually, he comes to life in party situations.

Martin walks up to them.

MARTIN

Milhouse, I can say without contradiction that that was the party of the decade. The pony ride helped me conquer my fear of barnyard animals.

BART

A pony! Milhouse, you know how much I love to yank on their tails and jab them with sticks! Why didn't you invite me?

MILHOUSE

Well, I wanted to, but --

BART

But what?

MILHOUSE

(WITH DIFFICULTY) My mom won't let me play with you.

Bart reacts.

INT. SPRINGFIELD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - CORRIDOR - THE NEXT DAY

SMITHERS

Sir, about Employee-of-the-Month...If you'll recall, I'm the one who put a five percent ceiling on the Keogh Plan, which saved this company --

BURNS

Smithers, you bean counter, give it  
up! Simpson's my man!

They enter the EMPLOYEE LUNCHROOM.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(LOOKING AROUND) So this is where  
they graze. The stench of it! Well,  
let the swine have their gristly  
piece of meat deep-fried in lard and  
drenched with gravy. Why don't we  
drop this charade and just install a  
trough?!

ANGLE ON HOMER

Who's seated at a bench, looking at his food with relish.

HOMER

Mmm-mmm. Chicken fried steak  
smothered in gravy! Man oh man,  
that's eatin'!

Homer takes an enormous bite. Fellow workers are  
congratulating Homer.

CARL

Hey, way to save our lives.

LENNY

Yeah, we owe you one.

HOMER

You know boys, a nuclear reactor is a lot like a woman. You just have to read the manual and press the right button.

Burns and Smithers come over.

BURNS

(OUTSTRETCHED HAND) Simpson -- Monty Burns. Come with us.

A terrified Homer **CHOKES** and **SPITS** out his food.

Burns and Smithers lead Homer up to a stage which is set up at one end of the employee lunchroom. The other employees start to **CHANT**, "Ho-mer! Hom-er!" A slightly embarrassed Homer sits down as Burns takes the podium, and holds up his hands for quiet.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen. While all of you other numskulls were running around saying, "Kiss my ass good-bye", this man kept his cool.

A **BATHING BEAUTY** in swimsuit appears bearing gifts.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Homer, for your bravery and skill, we award you this ham, this plaque, this discount coupon book, and best of all, my own personal 'atta boy'!

In order, the bathing beauty gives Homer a ham, a plaque, a little coupon book, and a pat on the back. She points to the model's runway which extends from the stage, and indicates for Homer to walk down it.

BURNS (CONT'D)

And so I say...

Burns takes the microphone out of its stand.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(SINGING) "Who's got that extra bit  
of pep?/ Who's got that new spring in  
his step?/ It gives me such great  
joy/ To have you in my employ."

The audience joins in SINGING. Smithers looks disgruntled,  
then finally JOINS IN LOUDLY.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(SINGS) "So alive! So rare... And  
oh! -- What *savoir-faire*!/ It's our  
Employee-of-the-Month/ That's who you  
are!"

As Homer walks down the runway, flash bulbs go off.  
Smithers approaches and passes on to Homer the Employee of  
the Month scepter which has a big atom at the end of it.  
He embraces Homer, **WEeping**.

SMITHERS

Dammit, if my string of 57 Employees-  
of-the-Month had to be broken, I'm  
glad it was by you!

The other worker's CHANT "Homer! Homer! Speech!" Burns  
hands Homer the microphone.

HOMER

Uh...(HALTINGLY) I'm not too good at  
public speaking, but...thanks for the  
ham.

The workers erupt into **WILD APPLAUSE**.

BURNS

And for the crowning moment, we now  
add a new face to our Wall of Fame.

ANGLE ON THE WALL OF FAME

Which is on one side of the stage. The CAMERA PANS across some of the past Employees of the Month, which as far as we can tell were all Smithers. There are pictures of Smithers:

- (A) In his late sixties look; granny glasses and Nehru jacket.
- (B) With an Afro and dashiki.
- (C) In his all white 'Saturday Night Fever' suit, striking the famous pose.
- (D) With stubble a la Don Johnson.
- (E) With a small pony tail.

Homer's picture is hung next to Smithers'. Burns is handed a telephone.

BURNS (CONT'D)

Homer, here's someone else who thinks  
you're a real MVP... King of the  
Gridiron, Joe Montana.

Burns hands Homer the phone.

HOMER

(SHRIEKS) Joe Montana?! (INTO PHONE)

Y'ello.

INTERCUT

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

A game is in progress. JOE MONTANA, with a muddy jersey and eye black, is talking into a sideline phone.

JOE

(INTO PHONE) Homer, this is a real  
treat. I was getting pretty tired of  
talking to Smithers.

HOMER

(AWED, INTO PHONE) Well, thank you.

JOE

(INTO PHONE) Homer, I know I speak for my team, the fans, and the beautiful city of San Francisco when I say we're very proud of what you did. But you and I know there's no secret to being a hero. It's just knowing your job and keeping your cool under pressure.

ON HOMER

Homer on other end of phone, looks embarrassed.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE  
TO:

HOMER'S FANTASY

The dictionary is open to a word.

Fraud *\noun\* 1. Impostor.  
2. One who is not what he pretends.

CAMERA PULLS OUT to reveal the engraving and: 3. Homer Simpson

RIPPLE DISSOLVE  
BACK TO HOMER:

JOE (V.O.; CONT'D)

(ON PHONE) Well, Homer, I gotta get  
back to work.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

WIDE SHOT to reveal Joe is having his ankle taped by the  
TEAM DOCTOR.

DOCTOR

Joe, if you play on that ankle,  
you'll be in incredible pain.

JOE

(HEROICALLY) I don't care.

DOCTOR

But Joe, it's only an exhibition  
game.

JOE

I said, I don't care! (INTO PHONE)  
Just remember, Homer, no one can take  
away that feeling that's inside of  
you right now.

Joe hands the phone to a COACH and hops to the field on one  
leg. The CROWD CHEERS.

INT. PLANT - CONTINUOUS

HOMER

(MOANS)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THAT EVENING

Lisa, Maggie, and a glum-looking Bart are seated in front  
of the television.

ON TV

The opening credits of an Itchy and Scratchy cartoon.

**SUPER: "MY DINNER WITH ITCHY"**

ITCHY and SCRATCHY are nicely dressed in suits and ties, civilly eating dinner in a fancy restaurant. Itchy pours wine into Scratchy's glass, and then his own. They **CLINK** glasses, but only Scratchy drinks. After a beat, we hear a **SIZZLE** as a horrified Scratchy dissolves from the neck down, revealing his skeleton. His head is still normal. A giggling Itchy takes the napkin off the wine bottle, to reveal the words "Sulfuric Acid" and the skull and crossbones symbol. Itchy throws his glass of acid in Scratchy's face. Scratchy runs out of the restaurant **SCREAMING** and gets hit by a street car.

**BACK TO SCENE**

Lisa is **LAUGHING** gleefully, while Bart doesn't crack a smile.

LISA

Bart, you're not laughing. Too subtle?

BART

Nah. I'm just depressed. Milhouse's mom won't let me play with him any more.

LISA

I'm truly sorry. (BEAT) Perhaps you can find a best friend whose parents let their kids run wild.

Homer walks in. He's unsuccessfully trying to hide the ham, plaque, and scepter behind his back.

MARGE

Homer, did you go out and buy a twenty pound ham? And what's all this?

Homer hands her the plaque.

MARGE (CONT'D)

(READING) "For superior work... hmm-  
hmm-mmm...Employee-of-the-Month!"

Ohh, Homer!

Marge looks at Homer with glowing eyes.

ANGLE ON LISA

As she gazes up at Homer with a shining glow.

LISA

Hello, a role model? (CHOKED UP) So,  
this family isn't rudderless.  
There's some guiding intelligence  
after all.

HOMER

(IRRITABLY) Look, I get enough  
admiration and respect at work. I  
don't need it here at home.

Marge and Lisa exchange a look. Homer exits the room.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

At the table, Marge has fixed everything up especially  
nice, with the steaming ham at the center.

MARGE

How are you enjoying your ham, Homer?

HOMER

(GUILTILY) It tastes so bitter. It's  
like ashes in my mouth!

MARGE

Hmm, it's more of a honey glaze --

LISA

Maybe you ate a clove.

MARGE

Homer, I've looked over the Employee-of-the-Month discount coupons. We'll get thirty percent off on our dry cleaning.

HOMER

Those clothes will taste like ashes.

MARGE

Also, we can save two dollars on charcoal briquettes this summer.

HOMER

Charcoal tastes like ashes.

LISA

(GLOWING LOOK) What a keen observation.

Homer notices glum Bart is only poking at his food.

HOMER

(A BIT ANNOYED) What's your problem, boy? No one looks up to you.

BART

I had a fight with Milhouse.

HOMER

Eh, big deal. Kids fight, they make up again. It's just weenie stuff.

LISA

(LOOKS UP GLOWING) How Zen.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Homer, in a sleeveless undershirt, is guzzling beer, eating potato chips and watching TV. Lisa, lying on her stomach, is gazing up at him admiringly.

HOMER

What are you doing?

LISA

Looking at you with quiet awe.

HOMER

Well, as long as it's quiet.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BART'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

A sad looking Bart is looking at photographs in his scrapbook.

CLOSE UP OF PHOTOGRAPH

Milhouse's head and feet are sticking out of an old Frigidare box. Bart in a turban is sawing him in half. Milhouse is **SCREAMING**. Bart is pitching his spiel to an audience of several KIDS. A sign reads:

The Great Bart-O  
and Milhouse.

The CAMERA PANS to:

CLOSE UP OF PHOTOGRAPH

Bart, still in the turban, is at the hospital visiting Milhouse, who has a large bandage on his side. Bart is sticking two fingers up behind Milhouse's head.

The CAMERA PANS to:

CLOSE UP OF PHOTOGRAPH

Bart is at the beach, about to shovel some more sand onto a small mound. Milhouse's thick glasses peek out of one end just below are two breathing straws sticking up from the sand.

The CAMERA PANS to:

**CLOSE UP OF PHOTOGRAPH**

Bart and Milhouse are at the zoo, in front of a gorilla habitat. Bart, with a mischievous expression, is holding Milhouse's ankles as Milhouse, with a terrified expression, leans far over the wall to feed a candy bar to a huge, ferocious-looking GORILLA. A foreground sign reads, "Feeding Gorillas Extremely Dangerous".

**BACK TO SCENE**

Milhouse's little plaintive voice is heard over the walkie-talkie.

MILHOUSE (V.O.)

Come in, Bart! Don't hate me.

Please, Bart, please.

**CLOSE UP WALKIE TALKIE**

One button is marked 'Talk'. Bart's finger approaches that button, but then goes to the dial marked 'Off'.

**BACK TO SCENE**

As Bart throws it in the trash.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPRINGFIELD POWER PLANT - PARKING LOT

Homer pulls into his parking spot, which indicates "Employee of the Month" over it. It's right next to Burns' limousine. Homer opens his door too quickly, and it **CONNECTS SOLIDLY** with Burns' limo, leaving in it a big, ugly dimple precisely the color of Homer's car.

HOMER

Eh, he'll never know who did it.

ANOTHER ANGLE OF PARKING LOT

Smithers is **MUTTERING** under his breath as he drives up and down the parking lot looking for a space. He finally pulls into one.

EXTREME LONG SHOT

Smithers exits his car. He's a half mile from the plant.

INT. BURNS' OFFICE - A SHORT WHILE LATER

Present with Burns is ARISTOTLE AMADOPOLIS, a lusty Greek power plant owner.

BURNS

Ah Simpson! There's someone I want  
you to meet. Homer Simpson --  
Aristotle Amadopolis, owner of the  
Shelbyville Nuclear Power facility.

Aristotle **KISSES** Homer on both cheeks.

ARISTOTLE

Let me see your hands. Ahh... rough  
worker hands! The hands that will  
turn my plant around.

BURNS

It seems Ari's been having terrible worker problems at Shelbyville.

ARISTOTLE

(DISDAINFULLY) They've lost their zest for work. You must help them find their (RAPIDLY) Eanae-eharatou-nah-duleve!

HOMER

Their Eanae-eharatou-nah-dule-what?

BURNS

We want you to give them a pep talk that turns them from a bunch of donut-eating goof-offs into a pack of Homer Simpsons.

HOMER

But I really can't tell them anything, sir.

BURNS

Oh cut the false modesty, it's getting tiresome. Besides, it's your duty. Employee of the Month isn't all ham and plaques.

Smithers enters, HUFFING, PUFFING and sweating.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(SARCASTIC) Well! Smithers, how kind of you to pay us a visit.

SMITHERS

(PANTING) Couldn't help it. The  
parking here is terrible, sir.

Both Burns and Aristotle GASP in unison.

ARISTOTLE

This man has no love for his plant.

BURNS

Be gone from my sight.

Smithers exits.

ARISTOTLE

Now -- we dance!

He strikes a Zorba pose.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Bart is playing Monopoly with Maggie. Marge is watching  
the kids play. Bart rolls the dice and moves a little top  
hat.

BART

Uh-oh, St. James Place -- but you  
don't have any houses on it, so I  
only pay thirty-six dollars. Ha ha!  
You're losing.

Bart pays Maggie 36 Monopoly dollars. Maggie looks at Bart  
then COUGHS up a hotel.

MARGE

Bart, don't feed your sister hotels!

BART

She paid for it, she can do what she  
wants.

MARGE

I think that game is a little too old  
for her. Why don't you go play with  
Milhouse?

BART

His mom won't let me.

MARGE

Really? Why?

BART

I have no idea. (EXITING) Come on,  
Maggie, let's go take a ride in the  
dryer.

Marge MURMURS.

EXT. MILHOUSE'S HOUSE - DAY

Marge RINGS the doorbell. Milhouse's MOM comes to the  
door. She wears glasses like Milhouse's.

MARGE

Mrs. Van Houten, I'm Bart's mother --  
we met in the emergency room when the  
boys drank paint.

MRS. VAN HOUTEN

I remember. Please, come in.

INT. VAN HOUTEN HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Van Houten and Marge sit at a couch.

MRS. VAN HOUTEN

What can I get you?

MARGE

This isn't a social call, Mrs. Van Houten. My boy is just heartbroken that you won't let him play with Milhouse.

MRS. VAN HOUTEN

Marge, this isn't easy to say, but I think your son is a bad influence on my boy. Milhouse still has nightmares about that gorilla.

MARGE

Maybe this is just a mother talking, but I think Bart is just an angel-in-the-making.

MRS. VAN HOUTEN

Really? Well, the other day, Milhouse told me my meatloaf sucks. He must have gotten that from your boy because they certainly don't say that on T.V.!

MARGE

I can't defend everything he does,  
Mrs. Van Houten. But let's face the  
facts, all Bart and Milhouse have is  
each other. They're too young for  
girls. They both get picked last in  
gym. And in the Christmas pageant,  
they're always sheep. Please, let  
them be friends!

Mrs. Van Houten pauses to think and look out the window.

MRS. VAN HOUTEN'S POV

We see Milhouse is on a teeter-totter by himself. He  
pushes himself up with his legs, then immediately THUDS to  
the ground. It looks pathetic.

BACK TO SCENE

MRS. VAN HOUTEN

I'll think about it, Marge.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN

Homer is sitting at the kitchen table with paper and  
pencil. He's trying to cram from some library books:  
"Nuclear Power Made Very, Very Simple", and "Public  
Speaking for the '70's".

HOMER

Chapter One -- "Say It, Don't Spray  
It." (WIPES MOUTH) Oh, how will I  
remember that?

Lisa enters. Homer gets an idea.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Lisa, would you like to help your  
daddy write a speech?

LISA

(TOUCHED) I don't know what to  
say...

HOMER

Neither do I! That's the problem.  
(MOANS)

LISA

Dad, don't worry. A good rule of  
thumb is, open with a joke. Then,  
pick out one person in the crowd and  
pretend you're just talking to him-  
slash-her. And remember, for a man  
with your charisma, words aren't  
important.

Homer looks upset.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE  
TO:

#### HOMER'S FANTASY

Dead *noun* 1. Certain to be doomed. 2. Defunct.

The CAMERA PULLS OUT to reveal our dictionary picture of Homer. His  
eyes have 'X's on them and his tongue is hanging out.

3. Homer Simpson

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BART'S BEDROOM - LATER

Bart is moping on the bed. Then we hear Milhouse's VOICE.

MILHOUSE (V.O.)

Milhouse to Bart, do you want to come  
over and play?

Bart pulls the walkie-talkie out of the trash can. There's  
a banana peel on it which Bart removes.

BART

(INTO WALKIE-TALKIE) Put your ear  
next to the walkie-talkie, Milhouse.  
I'll whisper my response.

Bart puts a Pocket Avenger next to the walkie-talkie and  
plays a **LOUD SIREN** noise full blast.

MILHOUSE (V.O.)

Ow! Bart, don't be mad. My mom said  
we could be friends again!

Marge appears at the doorway, looking pleased.

BART

(INTO WALKIE-TALKIE) All right!  
Milhouse, I'll be right over!

MILHOUSE (V.O.)

Great! (ON WALKIE-TALKIE) Mom, is  
my ear bleeding?

Bart **CLICKS** off his walkie-talkie.

BART

(SUSPICIOUS) Mom, you didn't go over  
and talk to Milhouse's mother, did  
you?

MARGE

Well... yes.

BART

Oh, man. That is so embarrassing!  
(BEAT; SINCERELY) Thanks.

Bart kisses her. Marge turns to go. Bart grabs his backpack and starts to fill it with slingshots, mean-looking rocks, and cherry bombs. He **SHAKES UP** a can of spray paint and puts it in.

MARGE

(BACK TURNED) Bart, a little  
reminder: play nice, share, obey  
Mrs. Van Houten, watch your  
language...

Marge turns around, just in time to see Bart take a B.B. gun out of a box labeled "Deadeye B.B. Gun." It has a picture of a smiling man with a patch over one eye. The barrel of the gun says "Three Pumps Maximum." Bart quickly **PUMPS** it five times as he runs out.

MARGE (CONT'D)

(SIGHS) Have fun, my little angel-  
in-training.

**INT. SHELBYVILLE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - NEXT DAY**

The **WORKERS** are gathered to hear Homer, who sits at a chair behind the podium. Aristotle is at the podium.

ARISTOTLE

(GRANDLY) And now for the first time  
in this plant, a real man! Behold  
the glory that is Homer Simpson!

The crowd **ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPLAUDS**. We see **TWO WORKERS**. One **APPLAUDS** and the other grimaces.

APPLAUDING WORKER

Hey, what's the matter? Didn't you  
hear him? It's Homer Simpson!

GRIMACING WORKER

Hey, I'm thrilled, but I think I ate  
a bad clam for lunch. (MAKES A  
NAUSEATED FACE) I'll be okay.

Homer reaches the microphone.

HOMER

(TO SELF) Pick out a face... Pick  
out a face...

HOMER'S POV

He zeros in on the Grimacing Worker who has just forced a  
weak smile.

BACK TO SCENE

HOMER (CONT'D)

(STIFFLY) Ladies and gentlemen,  
after that warm welcome, perhaps I  
should heed the Fable of the Little  
Cabbage and quit when I'm "a head."

While the rest of the audience LAUGHS, the Grimacing Worker  
makes a horribly unpleasant face.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(RATTLED) Uh... that was just a  
joke.

The Grimacing Worker shakes his head and MOANS. Homer  
loses all his confidence.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Well, I did have a speech prepared,  
but it isn't very good...

**HOMER'S POV**

The Grimacing Worker stifles a vomit and runs out of the room.

**BACK TO SCENE**

HOMER (CONT'D)

Oh who am I kidding? I'm not a hero!

I'm a stupid, lucky, fraud and now

I'm dead!

The workers LAUGH, a little mystified.

ARISTOTLE

(TO HOMER) Enough of opening jokes.

Make speech!

Suddenly a WARNING SIREN goes off in the plant.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Three minutes to meltdown.

The audience is calm and unworried. Homer panics and starts to run for the exit, pushing people aside.

HOMER

(SHRIEKS) Me first! Me first! Out  
of my way! (HE LOOKS AROUND) What's  
the matter with you people?

MAN IN AUDIENCE

We know we're safe as long as you're  
here.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

**INT. SHELBYVILLE PLANT - ANOTHER AREA**

Homer is being shoved towards a console.

HOMER

What am I supposed to do?

ARISTOTLE

Just do what you did before.

Aristotle casually gestures towards the console while he sips his espresso.

HOMER

(SADLY) Okay... eenie meenie minee  
mo, catch a tiger by the... No wait -  
- apples, pears, and pumpkin pie...  
poke a pencil in your -- God, this is  
no time to freeze! (HAND OVER EYES)  
Out goes Y-O-U!

Homer pushes a button... and the **ALARM SIREN** stops.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Crisis has been averted. Everything  
is super.

The workers look at each other and **MUMBLE**, startled.

#### **MONTAGE SEQUENCE**

#### **TV SCREEN**

Kent Brockman is giving his evening report, "My Two Cents, with Kent Brockman". The logo has two pennies with "My Two Cents" written over them and Kent's own signature below.

KENT

Eenie meenie minee mo / Is Homer a  
hero? / The answer is... no. His  
ballyhooed bravery was nothing more  
than an act of dumb luck. I'm Kent  
Brockman and that was... (WITH  
SIGNIFICANCE) My Two Cents. Now with  
sports here's Ted Keegan.

A SPORTSCASTER resembling Fred Roggin comes on.

TED

Thanks, Kent. Well, it seems the  
Springfield Razzamatazz pulled a  
Homer Simpson of their own. With  
three seconds left, and trailing by a  
point, they scored the winning  
bucket. (OVER THE FOLLOWING) File  
this one under dumb luck.

We see the replay of a basketball game on the screen beside  
him. A PLAYER, dribbling the ball, trips over his own  
foot. The ball flies out of his hands, hits the REFEREE on  
the head and bounces into the basket. FANS rush the court.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

In uniform, Joe Montana sits on the examination table. The  
DOCTOR looks at an x-ray.

DOCTOR

Joe, this is a miracle! When you got  
tackled, it snapped your ankle back  
into place.

JOE

Looks like I pulled a Homer.

**EXT. ALASKA - ICE FLOE**

An ESKIMO is spear fishing by a fishing hole. He spears the water, loses his balance and falls in. When he comes up, he shakes his head, dazed, then sees that he's got a perfectly speared fish.

ESKIMO

(IN ESKIMO) Agloo uklo crikash 'a  
Homer'!

**INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - BART'S CLASSROOM**

Mrs. Krabappel is handing back tests. Milhouse now has a patch over his eye. We see Bart has an "A" on his multiple choice test.

MILHOUSE

(NOTICING BART'S PAPER) Bart, I  
thought you didn't study.

BART

I didn't. I just pulled a Homer.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LATER**

**CLOSE UP - DICTIONARY**

The dictionary is open. Beneath the definition of "HOMELY" we see the entry "HOMER." There, we see Homer's dictionary-style picture. The definition reads:

**Homer** *noun* [slang] 1: Success despite idiocy 2: Fortunate accident through dumb luck 3: Homer, 'to pull a' -- [after American bonehead.]

The CAMERA PULLS OUT on Lisa holding the dictionary. Bart is with her.

LISA

Our dad... now he belongs to the  
ages.

CLOSE UP - DICTIONARY

As the book is SLAMMED shut.

FADE OUT.

THE END